

Description

[SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY MODULE DESIGN]

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the priority benefit of Taiwan application serial no. 91136480, filed December 18, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a system and methods for modeling design systems. More specifically, the present invention relates to system and method for liquid crystal display module design.

[0004] 2. Description of the Background Art

[0005] Liquid crystal displays (LCDs) are gaining in popularity for use in systems such as television receivers, computer monitors, avionics displays, aerospace displays, and other military-related displays. Liquid crystal displays are small in dimension, light in weight, and requires less power for

driving the same. From everyday use to high-level industrial applications, liquid crystal displays are gradually taking the place where cathode ray tubes are being used.

[0006] In the development of a new liquid crystal display device, it is known to initially collect market information for establishing module standards. A designer designs the shape of the liquid crystal display and the related structures associated therewith. The above shape design and its related structures limit the luminous intensity of the back light source. The luminous intensity is related to the optic characteristics of the front panel and its related parameters. Furthermore, in the later stages of development, the modules in the end product are produced based upon the luminous intensity and the related parameters of the front panel surface. The end product is further tested. Based upon the test, further corrections may be performed.

[0007] However, the above method requires the end product to be produced first or a finished product before any test or corrections can be performed thereon. Thus, it is time-consuming and increases the cost of the design process.

[0008] As can be seen, there is a need for an improved system and methods wherein liquid crystal module design can be

efficiently performed. In addition, there's also a need for an improved the system and methods wherein various optic characteristics of the liquid crystal display module can be estimated with confidence for design purposes.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0009] In the present invention a method and system for liquid crystal display design are provided for a more efficient and accurate end product.

[0010] Accordingly, a method for designing a liquid crystal display device is provided. The method includes the following steps. They are: based upon at least one viewing angle among a plurality of liquid crystal display films, determining a range of a gap between liquid crystal cells of a liquid crystal display device; based upon the surface transmittance and gamut of a plurality of liquid crystal modules, determining at least one value of the gap between liquid crystal cells of the liquid crystal display device; based upon optic characteristics of a plurality of color filter films and color modules, determining a set of optic characteristics for a color filter as well as for the liquid crystal display device; and adjusting values related to the set of optic characteristics of the liquid crystal display device and the color filter. Thereby a set of adjusted values for present as

well as future design purposes is produced.

[0011] Accordingly, a method for designing a liquid crystal display module suitable for developing a system for designing a product is provided. The system includes a database, wherein color characteristic parameters relating to a plurality of liquid crystal film, to a plurality of color filter film, to a plurality of testing modules, and to a plurality of standard module are stored therein. The method includes the following steps. They are: based upon data relating to a plurality of liquid crystal cell gaps and their respective viewing angle, provide an expression of the relationships between the viewing angles and cell gaps, and deriving a range of the cell gaps; based upon data relating to a plurality of panel surfaces transmittance and their respective color gamut, provide an expression of the relationships between the plurality of surfaces transmittance and their respective color gamut, and deriving at least one cell gap value; based upon data relating to the plurality of color filter films and testing modules, provide a set of expressions of relationships including the relationship of color filter film thickness with color filter characteristics, the relationship of color filter characteristics with liquid crystal testing module, and determining color filter stan-

dard and product standard based upon the above relationship; and correct product color characteristics based upon the ratio of measured value with modeling value.

[0012] Accordingly, a system for designing a liquid crystal module for designing a prototype of a product is provided. The system includes means for performing a method comprising the following steps. They are: based upon at least one viewing angle among a plurality of liquid crystal display films, determining a range of a gap between liquid crystal cells of a liquid crystal display device; based upon the surface transmittance and gamut of a plurality of liquid crystal modules, determining at least one value of the gap between liquid crystal cells of the liquid crystal display device; based upon optic characteristics of a plurality of color filter films and color modules, determining a set of optic characteristics for a color filter as well as for the liquid crystal display device; and adjusting values related to the set of optic characteristics of the liquid crystal display device and the color filter. Thereby a set of adjusted values for present as well as future design purposes is produced.

[0013] Accordingly, a system for designing a liquid crystal module for designing a prototype of a product is provided.

The system includes a database, wherein color characteristic parameters relating to a plurality of liquid crystal film, to a plurality of color filter film, to a plurality of testing modules, and to a plurality of standard module are stored therein. The system includes a method which includes the following steps: based upon data relating to a plurality of liquid crystal cell gaps and their respective viewing angle, providing an expression of the relationships between the viewing angles and cell gaps, and deriving a range of the cell gaps; based upon data relating to a plurality of panel surfaces transmittance and their respective color gamut, provide an expression of the relationships between the plurality of surfaces transmittance and their respective color gamut, and deriving at least one cell gap value; based upon data relating to the plurality of color filter films and testing modules, providing a set of expressions of relationships including the relationship of color filter film thickness with color filter characteristics, the relationship of color filter characteristics with liquid crystal testing module, and determining color filter standard and product standard based upon the above relationship; and correct product color characteristics based upon the ratio of measured value with modeling value.

[0014] These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following drawings, description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0015] Figure 1 shows driving a first set of values of the instant invention using trendline regression.

[0016] Figure 2 shows driving a second set of values of the instant invention using trendline regression.

[0017] Figure 3 shows driving a third set of values of the instant invention using trendline regression.

[0018] Figure 4 is a first Table listing a first set of values of the instant invention.

[0019] Figure 5 is a second Table listing a second set of values of the instant invention.

[0020] Figure 6 is a third Table listing a third set of values of the instant invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0021] The following detailed description is of the best currently contemplated modes of carrying out the invention. The description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, but is made merely for the purpose of illustrating the general principles of the invention, since the scope of the inven-

tion is best defined by the appended claims.

[0022] When designing a machine or product involving liquid crystal display, a designer may be required to collect market information or client requirements in order to establish a module standard. A module standard is anything that the market requires or a client wants. Furthermore, the designer starts the optic design phase, wherein liquid crystal cell gap is determined. The optic design phase further includes the dissemination of color filter optic characteristics, end product color filter optic characteristics, and other related optic characteristics. Furthermore, the results of the above optic design needs to satisfy some basic design requirements. The following is an embodiment of the present invention which lists in detail a system and methods for liquid crystal display module design.

[0023] It is assumed that the design requirements are predetermined. For example, the following elements are predetermined, they include end product or resultant device (15" SXGA⁺); luminous intensity (150 nits); back light luminous intensity of the module (1500 nits); color gamut (> 45 % NTSC ratio); and viewing angle (\pm 45 degrees horizontal, 10 to 30 degrees vertical). Furthermore, based on the luminous intensity and the backlight luminous intensity,

surface transmittance is determined to be greater than 10 percent ($\geq 10\%$).

[0024] A database including a subset of databases needs to be established. The subset of databases includes liquid crystal cell database, color filter database, testing module database, and standard module for design calibration related database. The values (of data) of the above databases are determined based on measurements of the various optic characteristics related to the design. Further, the above values can be derived from either modeling or computation. However, if the database does not include the data needed for design purposes, data needs to be derived or somehow retrieved and stored in the database.

[0025] Furthermore, new product development needs to be based on a standard that is known. Usually this standard is the based upon known products. In this embodiment, the known product possess a series No. 15" XGA.

[0026] Determining the Range of the Cell Gap

[0027] Initially the range of the cell gap needs to be determined. The liquid crystal cell gap is determined based upon the viewing angle. In other words, the above cell gap range is derived from any expression containing elements that includes viewing angle and the distance between liquid

crystal cells.

[0028] Referring to table 1, the liquid crystal film (Merck Liquid Crystal) having a 6 o'clock viewing angle is described. Listed in the table are the maximum values of various directions of the viewing angles. The viewing angle directions include 3', 9", 12" and 6". Also in table 1, the distance between liquid crystal cells is known. Furthermore, liquid crystal films having different intercellular distances may have their maximum viewing angle computed. Lastly, the above measured values data may be stored in their liquid crystal cell database.

6 o'clock viewing angle				
Inter-distance (μm)	Direction of viewing angle (3')	Direction of viewing angle (9')	Direction of viewing angle (12')	Direction of viewing angle (6')
3.939	53	53	27	>60
4.435	45	48	26	>60
5.745	46	44	20	>60
Relationship between viewing angle and d_p	$y = -2.9765x + 61.989$	$y = -4.6499x + 70.168$	$y = -4.0663x + 43.444$	$y = 60$

Table 1 (6 o'clock viewing angle)

[0029] Furthermore, as shown in table 1, the relationship between the viewing angle and inter-distance are established based on data stored within the liquid crystal cell database. The above relationship can be expressed using trend line regression method. In turn, the viewing angle

characteristics are inserted into the above relationship and the gap values are derived as shown in Table 2. This way, it can be seen that the gap between liquid crystal cells determines the range of the inter-distances. In this case, that the derived distance range is greater than 3.93 micrometer and the less than 5.4 micrometer.

	Direction of viewing angle (3°)	Direction of viewing angle (9°)	Direction of viewing angle (12°)	Direction of viewing angle (6°)
Viewing angle	45	45	10	30
Gap (d_g μm)	<5.705	<5.415	<8.224	>3.93

Table 2.

[0030] It should be noted that the three films of table 1 should not be a limitation to the instant invention. A suitable number of films may be used to derive the relationship between the inter-distance and the viewing angle. Furthermore, the liquid crystal material used should not be

limited series Merck fast Liquid Crystal series. In fact, by measuring different types of liquid crystal cells, a sub database may be set up having data related to different types stored therein. Thus, relationships of optic characteristics of a plurality of the different types of liquid crystal may be stored in a database for current or future use.

[0031] Determines the Values of Cell Gap

[0032] Open establishing the range of the cell gap, the value of the cell gap can be determined. The determination is based upon the panel transmittance rate T (%) in relationship to design purposes. In other words, the selection of the cell gap for an optic design system is based upon a selection among a plurality of panels each having its own panel transmittance rate T (%). The panel transmittance rate T is further compared with the light or optic characteristics (for example gamut) for the determination of the cell gap.

[0033] In the present embodiment, the relationship between the panel transmittance rate T and the optic characteristics (gamut G) is established as follows.

[0034] Referring to Tables 3–5, three different modules each having different optic characteristics are shown. It is noted that the two important values in the Tables are

module color coordinate values (white light grey gradient) and module color gamut G. Furthermore, Tables 3–5 list a set of measured values of the three different modules S1, S2, S3, each relating to its own color filter film. Furthermore, the measured values may be stored in the module database for present or future use.

$d_{r1}=0.76, d_{g1}=0.79, d_{b1}=0.83 (\mu\text{m})$					
S1	Red	Green	Blue	White	Gamut
x	0.4930	0.3409	0.1713	0.3099	
y	0.3253	0.5423	0.1818	0.3421	28.96%
Y	2.3690	5.4465	2.2115	9.9448	

Table 3.

$d_{r2}=1.14, d_{g2}=1.22, d_{b2}=1.19 (\mu\text{m})$					
S2	Red	Green	Blue	White	Gamut
x	0.5566	0.3323	0.1586	0.3107	
y	0.3298	0.5781	0.1478	0.3388	44.14%
Y	1.9032	4.9745	1.5931	8.4132	

Table 4.

$d_{r3}=1.51, d_{g3}=1.59, d_{b3}=1.57 (\mu\text{m})$					
S3	Red	Green	Blue	White	Gamut
x	0.5969	0.3223	0.1522	0.3096	
y	0.3334	0.5998	0.1220	0.3340	55.79%
Y	1.6611	4.6464	1.2087	7.4544	

Table 5.

[0035] **Deriving Panel Transmittance Rate T and Transmittance Correction**

[0036] The embodiment would now proceed to deriving the panel transmittance rate T which needs to be compensated in order to meet product requirements. The panel transmit-

tance rate T after correction can be expressed as follows:
 $T (\%) = Y \cdot \text{aperture ratio correction} \cdot \text{liquid crystal gap correction} \cdot \text{computed value vs. measured value correction} (1).$

[0037] Wherein Y represents optic characteristic coordinates, aperture ratio correction is the ratio between the device subject to designing (15" SXGA⁺ model) and the standard or calibration device (15" XGA model). liquid crystal gap correction is defined as the ratio of computed correction using T_{LC} and its corresponding measured value. Thereby an actual specific value is used for correction purposes. Further, the relationship between the liquid crystal transmittance and liquid crystal gap can be retrieved from liquid crystal sub-database. Further, the data in the above data base can be derived using trendline regression, and expressed as follows: $T_{LC} = -0.088 d_g^2 + 0.1918 d_g + 0.120 (2).$

[0038] In the exemplified embodiment of a production line application, liquid crystal gap alternates between 4.3 micrometer or 4.7 micrometer. Therefore, the correction values are either 4.3 micrometer or 4.7 micrometer. Further, the correction is expressed as the ratio between computed and measured values. Specifically, the ratio is expressed as the ratio between the transmittance of the standard module

and the transmittance of the modeled module.

[0039] Upon supplanting the above values into equation (1), as shown in Table 6, transmittance rate can be computed for modules S1, S2, and S3 at 4.3 μm and 4.7 μm respectively.

	T (4.3 μm , %)	T (4.7 μm , %)
S1	11.18	11.46
S2	9.44	9.68
S3	8.38	8.59

Table 6

[0040] From Tables 3–5, take the values of G, and from Table 6, take the value T, we can arrive at a relationship between T and G. This can be achieved using the trendline regression method as shown in equations (3) and (4).

[0041] $T(4.3\ \mu\text{m}) = -0.1048G + 14.172(3).$

[0042] $T(4.7\ \mu\text{m}) = -0.1075G + 14.53(4).$

[0043] Based upon the above equations (3) and (4), insert the design requirement into the same. For $G = 45\%$ we have: $T(4.3\ \mu\text{m}) = 9.456 < 10\%$, $T(4.7\ \mu\text{m}) = 9.693 < 10\%$.

[0044] Further, when transmittance is 10%, $T(\text{gap}=4.3\ \mu\text{m}) > 10\%$, Gamut = 42%; $T(\text{gap}=4.7\ \mu\text{m}) > 10\%$, Gamut = 39%.

[0045] Based upon the above, it is more advantageous to have gap value equal to 4.7 micrometer.

[0046] Upon the determination of the gap value, we further compute values of the color filter film and other optic characteristics of the device or product. The characteristic of the color filter film and other optic characteristics of the product are derived from color filter film thickness. The film thickness possesses a relationship with color filter characteristics, as well as the relationship of the color filter characteristic in relation with the x, y, Y parameters of the same.

[0047] The above relationships are established as follows. First, data are retrieved from color filter sub database. The data include data pertaining to three different films having different thickness d . The testing film's optic characteristics are expressed as x_c y_c Y_c . The testing module's optic characteristics are expressed as x_m , y_m Y_m which may be obtained from testing module sub database. The above values of d , x_c y_c Y_c , and x_m , y_m Y_m are listed in Tables 7–9 according to color red (R), green (G) and blue (B).

Red						
thickness	xc	yc	Yc	xm	ym	Ym
0.76	0.507878	0.321983	31.89036	0.492969	0.325289	2.368973
1.14	0.571457	0.325483	25.83453	0.55663	0.329794	1.90318
1.51	0.612501	0.329361	22.68296	0.596945	0.33344	1.661083

Table 7.

Green						
thickness	xc	yc	Yc	xm	ym	Ym
0.79	0.531376	0.337974	70.89064	0.34092	0.542342	5.446514
1.22	0.566176	0.329048	64.74404	0.332261	0.578094	4.974489
1.59	0.586934	0.319926	59.82565	0.322311	0.599781	4.646388

Table 8

Blue						
thickness	xc	yc	Yc	xm	ym	Ym
0.83	0.197406	0.159128	30.98312	0.191347	0.181832	2.211537
1.19	0.169549	0.144835	23.66457	0.158648	0.147816	1.593074
1.57	0.148295	0.138726	19.09801	0.15222	0.121971	1.208692

Table 9

[0048] As can be appreciated, the relationship among color filter films" thickness, testing module color characteristics, color filter"s x, y, Y can be derived using Table 7. In Figure 1, the above relationships are established using trend line regression. Referring now to Figure 1, the relationship be-

tween the red filter film and the d vs. x_c , x_c vs. y_c , x_c vs. Y_c , x_c vs. x_m , x_c vs. y_m , and x_c vs. Y_m are shown. Since color red is determined by x_c , it is used as the starting point. Based on trendline regression, at least two points are needed for the regression.

[0049] From Table 8, we arrive at Figure 2. Referring to Figure 2, the relationship of green y_c vs. d , green x_c vs. y_c green Y_c vs. y_c , green y_c vs. x_m green y_c vs. y_m and green y_c vs. Y_m are shown. Since color green is determined by y_c , it is used as the starting point.

[0050] Similarly, from Table 9 to Figure 3, we derive similar parameter relationships. And since color blue is determined by y_c , it is used as the starting point.

[0051] Upon establishing the relationships based upon Figures 1–3 coupled with the requirement that color gamut be equal to 45%, the acceptable thickness should be between 1.1 to 1.3 μm . The device's color characteristics are shown in Table 10.

CF standard	Red	Green	Blue	White	Gamut
d (μm)	1.25	12.5	1.0		
x _c	0.5797	0.3278	0.1531	0.3084	43.43%
y _c	0.3267	0.5651	0.1848	0.3439	
Y _c	25.41	64.45	27.75	39.20	
Modeled values of optic characteristics of the device					
x _m	0.5645	0.3306	0.1659	0.3076	43.18%
y _m	0.3307	0.5771	0.1665	0.3388	
Y _m	1.870	4.971	1.939	8.780	

Table 10.

[0052] The values in Table 10 are the designing device's color filter characteristics. However, the above values are required to be further corrected for reaching a final set of color filter characteristic data.

[0053] The requisite correction involves retrieving data from de-

signing standard sub-database, as well as measured data. Designing standard data base may establish three types of standard test module.

- [0054] (i) 15" XGA front panel + ordinary upper and lower polarizing filter (exclusive of viewing angle compensation film (WV Film) + 15" backlight.
- [0055] (ii) 15" XGA front panel + ordinary upper polarizing filter + ordinary lower polarizing filter (exclusive of viewing angle compensation film (WV Film), but including DBEF + 15" backlight.
- [0056] (iii) 15" XGA front panel + ordinary upper polarizing filter + ordinary lower polarizing filter (exclusive of viewing angle compensation film (WV Film), but including PCF + 15" backlight.
- [0057] The module values are computed based upon the structures of (i).
- [0058] Referring now to Figure 4, the measured values and the modeling values are provided in portion A and portion B respectively. Further, in portion C, product module's optic characteristics are provided. A set of complete estimation values are derived from multiplying the ratio of the measured value of portion A to that of modeled value of portion B with the module optic characteristic value. The cor-

rected values of transmittance (from XGA to SXGA⁺) is derived from opening ratio correction (from XGA=66.5% to SXGA⁺=57%). Furthermore, the complete estimation value of the luminous intensity is the product of factor 1 which is back light module and factor 2 which is SXGA⁺ transmittance. The corrected version is entered in portion D.

[0059] Furthermore, in Figure 5, the portion D of the same is related to (ii), wherein DBEF (Deal Brightness Enhancement Film) is used. And in Figure 6, portion D of the same is related to (iii), wherein PCF (Polarization Conversion Film) is used.

[0060] From Figures 4–6, it is known that using DBEF (Figure 5) and PCF (Figure 6) meets design requirements. Thereby the optic characteristic of the above meet the product's design requirement.

[0061] One embodiment of the invention is implemented as a program product for use with a computer system The program(s) of the program product defines functions of the embodiments and can be contained on a variety of signal-bearing media. Illustrative signal-bearing media include, but are not limited to: (i) information permanently stored on non-writable storage media (*e.g.*, read-only memory devices within a computer such as CD-ROM disks

readable by a CD-ROM drive); (ii) alterable information stored on writable storage media (*e.g.*, floppy disks within a diskette drive or hard-disk drive); or (iii) information conveyed to a computer by a communications medium, such as through a computer or telephone network, including wireless communications. The latter embodiment specifically includes information downloaded from the Internet and other networks. Such signal-bearing media, when carrying computer-readable instructions that direct the functions of the present invention, represent embodiments of the present invention.

[0062] In general, the routines executed to implement the embodiments of the invention, whether implemented as part of an operating system or a specific application, component, program, module, object, or sequence of instructions may be referred to herein as a "program". The computer program typically is comprised of a multitude of instructions that will be translated by the native computer into a machine-readable format and hence executable instructions. Also, programs are comprised of variables and data structures that either reside locally to the program or are found in memory or on storage devices. In addition, various programs described hereinafter may be identified

based upon the application for which they are implemented in a specific embodiment of the invention. However, it should be appreciated that any particular program nomenclature that follows is used merely for convenience, and thus the invention should not be limited to use solely in any specific application identified and/or implied by such nomenclature.

[0063] In addition, it should be noted that the data in the databases described supra may not be complete. The incomplete data bases can be rendered more complete by the addition of relevant data thereto. Further, the instant invention contemplates using efficient means such as computer program to speed up the design process while at the same time maintain sufficient accuracy of the design parameters.

[0064] Color Gamut is defined as a value representing a whole range of color for a giving system. Gamut is an abbreviation of color gamut.

[0065] It should be understood, of course, that the foregoing relates to preferred embodiments of the invention and that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.